REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 10, 12, 17, 19 and 25-31 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

I.   Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §101

The Office Action rejects claims 25-31 under 35 U.S.C. §101 for reciting non-statutory subject matter. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 25-31 are amended as suggested by the Office Action. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II.   Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-17 and 19-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,773,099 to Bokser ("Bokser"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Embodiments of the present invention are directed to performing "automatic triage of **a text passage** outputted by an optical character recognition system, the OCR-output text passage **having multiple OCR-output characters**." For example, independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "**determining an error rate for the OCR-output text passage**."

Support for the above features may be found throughout the original specification and drawings. Specific support may be found in the original specification at least at paragraphs [0005]-[0006], [0009], [0023], [0027], [0031], [0042]-[0044], [0073]-[0074] and Figures 7 and 8. Bokser does not disclose, teach or suggest such features.

For example, Bokser, at col. 24, lines 7-14, and the text related to all figures cited by the Office Action (e.g., 1, 2, and 10B) as well as text related to all other figures in the application (e.g., see text related to Fig. 4 at col. 11, lines 44 through col. 5, line 21), describes techniques for identifying single characters, one-by-one, using a ring-cluster-based analysis process. For example, the passages cited by the Office Action in Bokser at col. 23, line 11 through col. 24, line 14; col. 24, lines 21-24; col. 24, line 63 through col. 25, line 4, all relate to the identification of individual characters, on a one-by-one basis, as part of the OCR process. For example, at col. 23, line 43-49, Bokser describes an analysis process in which multiple candidate characters are eliminated "so that only one character candidate remains."

The techniques and parameters described in Bokser with respect to triage, such as feature extraction described with respect to Fig. 1; alien distances, confidence bound, possibility bound, certainty bound, ringed-cluster, confidence annulus, certainty sphere, possibility sphere, alien overlap, possibility radius, and mean described with respect to Figures 2A-3E; ascender subline, lowercase subline, base subline, descender subline described with respect to Fig. 11; and the overall analysis process described with respect to Fig. 4, all pertain to the analysis of individual characters.

The triage process in Bokser is performed as part of the OCR process of identifying individual characters. Nowhere does Bokser describe teach or suggest "**triage of a text passage** outputted by an optical character recognition system, the OCR-output text passage **having multiple OCR-output characters**," as recited in the claims, nor does Bokser describe teach or suggest a process that includes "determining an error rate **for the OCR-output text passage**," as recited in the claims.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the applied art. Independent claims 12, 19 and 25 include features similar to the features described above with respect to claim 1 and are, therefore, patentably

distinguishable over the applied art for at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1. Claims 2, 4-8, 10, 13-17, 20-24 and 26-31 depend from one of independent claims 1, 12, 19 and 25, respectively, and are likewise patentably distinguishable over the applied art for at least their dependence on allowable base claims, as well as for additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 3, 11 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Bokser. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3, 11 and 18 each depend from one of independent claims 1 and 12. As described above, Bokser does not describe, teach or suggest the combinations of features recited in either of claims 1 and 12.
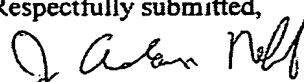
For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3, 11 and 18 are patentably distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for additional features each recites. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV.   Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-31 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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